THE SPIRITS CONVICTION OF SINNE.

OPENED

In a Sermon before the Honorable HOUSE of COMMONS,

Assembled in Parliament upon the solemne day of their Monethly Fast,
Novemb. 26. 1645.

By PETER STERRY, sometimes Fellow of *Emanuel Colledge* in *Cambridge*.

AND NOW

Preacher of the Gospel in LONDON.
and now in Whitehal.

Published by Order of the House of Commons.

LONDON,
Printed by *Matth. Simmons*, for *Henry Overton*, and *Benjamin Allen*, and are to be sold at their shops in Popes-head Alley, 1645.

Die Mercurii 26. Novemb. 1645.

ORdered by the *Commons* assembled in *Parliament*, That Sir *Gilbert Pickering*, and Sir *John Clotworthy*, do give thanks from this House to Mr. *Sterry*, for the great pains he took in the Sermon he preached this day, at the intreaty of this House, at St *Margarets Westminster*, (it being the Day of Publike Humiliation), and to desire him to print his Sermon. And it is ordered that none shall print this Sermon without being authorized under his hand-writing.

Henry Elsynge Cler. Parl. D. Com.

I Order *Henry Overton* and *Benjamine Allen*, to print my Sermon.

Peter Sterry.

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TO THE HONOURABLE THE KNIGHTS & BURGESSES OF THE House of COMMONS Assembled in PARLIAMENT.

GOD *hath promised his people to carry them on the* Eagles Wing. *The onely desire and humble endeavour of your lowest servant in Christ, hath been to work with God in this Sermon; that your Soules, Counsels, Warres, may be carried on by the Spirit of God; who in the language of the Scriptures is not onely the* Dove *for* Purity *and* Peace; *but also the* True Eagle *for* Wisdome *and* Power.

Worthy Senatours, if you knew this Spirit, you would ask Him *of your Saviour; and Hee would be to you a Fountain of Counsell and Strength springing up to Everlasting Peace and Glory. But have you not known* The Spirit? His *sound hath gone forth into all your Eares. All the Scriptures speak of* Him *as they doe of* Jesus Christ.

Daniel *was chosen by the King of Assyria to sway the great affaires of that vast Empire; because the* Spirit of the immortall God *was found in him.*

David *was a* Statesman, Wiser then his Teachers: David *was a* Souldier; *His fingers were skild in fighting, his hands train'd up to Victory over Wild Beasts, Giants, Armies of Men. Was not the* Spirit *the* Lamp *of God which shone thus gloriously on* David's *Court and Camp, which made his Throne so great?* Thy Word, *saith he,* was a Light to my Feet. *The Word of God is the Spirit of God, saith* St. Paul; The Sword of the Spirit, [a] which (Spirit, *not* Sword) is the Word of God. *This made* David *when hee had sin'd, cry: Take not thine Holy Spirit from me. When the Spirit of God once left* Saul, *an evill Spirit came upon him, which vex't him, which haunted him to the losse of his kingdome and life together.*

[a] ὅ, as relating to πνεῦμα, not ἣ, as relating to μάχαιρα.

Honourable Fathers of your Countries, I humbly move to know, By what Title you sit there and rule over us. Is it not as Powers on Earth? *But* All power on Earth *as well as in Heaven, is given to Jesus Christ. You are Substitutes and Vice-gerents to the Lord Jesus. Look then to Jesus the Beginning and End of your Authority. God hath laid the Government*

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on his Shoulder. what is his ſufficiency for it? The Spirit of the Lord reſteth on him, and this is, A Spirit of Counſell and Might in him.

You who ſit at the right hand of the Lord Jeſus, in this Common-wealth, as the Lord Jeſus ſits at the right hand of his Father in that Kingdome, which is over all: pray, that the ſame Spirit, which was powred forth on him, may be by him powred forth on you: So ſhall you be Meſſiahs, *anointed ones, and* Saviours *to this people. Can* You *be able to rule over any ſpot of this earth; when* Jeſus Chriſt *was not fit for the government of the whole; without the Spirit?*

Do you put your whole truſt in the promiſes of God, and expect by them to be made partakers of every bleſſing? Do you believe the promiſes made in the word of God? I hope, I may ſay, at leaſt with as good confidence, as Paul *ſaid it to* Agrippa; *I know you believe them.*

This is the promiſe: The Spirit ſhall lead you into all truth. *You are now ſearching into the deep things of God, which concern* Religion; *Live in the Spirit, and the Spirit ſhall bring all into your minde, and ſhew you the things of Jeſus Chriſt. It behoves you to know the method of Satan; the ſtratagems and dark deeps of the Devill himſelf, in myſteries of* State *and* Religion. *Walk in the Spirit; hee ſhall lead you into their chambers, as hee did* Ezekiel; *and let you ſee what miſchiefes they are there contriving in ſecret.*

This is the promiſe: The Spirit of God and of glory ſhall reſt on his ſervants, in their conflicts and ſufferings. *Sit ſtill in all humble reſignation of your ſelves, to the working of this Spirit; that hee may reſt on you: ſo ſhall hee manage your counſels, finiſh your wars; and*

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end all your sufferings with glorie.

I shall conclude my Epistle with an humble Petition *to your Honours:* an hearty Prayer for *you.*

My humble Petition is, that You would ever remember to converse as Doves, *among* Doves; *with this* Dove; *He is a tender Spirit, take heed of grieving* this Spirit, *where ever hee dwels: For by him alone can your hopes be sealed to a day of full accomplishment.*

My hearty Prayer *is,* that, *as you sit debating in Parliament, the appearances of the Holy Ghost may be among you; as hee was with the Apostles, sitting over them in the form of fiery tongues:* that *when you fight in the field, the Holy Ghost may be as a two-edged sword going forth from the mouth of the Lord Jesus into your enemy's hearts:* that *you may never see upon the walls of your house, that hand-writing which made* Bel-shazzer *tremble;* Your kingdome is divided; *but in stead of this, that uniting and building Principle;* Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord. *This is the fervent, constant prayer of*

Your Honours

humble servant in Christ,

Peter Sterry.